

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 33 and 34 will be pending in the application. All other claims are canceled.

In the office action dated May 31, 2005, the examiner requires restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group I – Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 19, 33 and 34, drawn to conducting a search with two or more search providers, classified in class 707, subclass 10;

Group II – Claims 20 and 35, drawn to a search architecture or database schema, classified in class 707, subclass 100;

Group III – Claims 21 and 23-30, drawn to providing a unified user interface and a configurable user interface, classified in class 707, subclass 102;

Group IV – Claims 31-32, drawn to a method of operating a graphical user interface for defining queries receiving input through a graphical interface window and displaying a query within a window, classified in class 715, subclass 700.

The examiner requires election of one group for prosecution on the merits, even if restriction is traversed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.143.

Applicant's representative would like to thank the examiner for her time on June 27, 2005, and for the telephone interview in which the examiner was amenable to re-characterizing the Groups as follows:

Group I – Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 19, 33 and 34;

Group II – Claims 20, 21, 23-30 and 35; and

Group III – Claims 31-32.

Subsequent to the telephone interview, applicant's representative realized that claim 19, placed under Group I by the examiner, is also drawn to a search architecture.

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Accordingly, claim 19 was likely intended for characterization under Group II, and will therefore be treated as such by applicant's representative in this response and amendment.

Election and Traversal

Applicant elects Group I (claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 33 and 34) for immediate prosecution, and respectfully traverses the restriction requirement. Although applicant formally traverses the restriction requirement, applicant has canceled all other claims to expedite prosecution of this application. The canceled claims will be pursued in one or more continuing applications.

Applicant makes no representation by this election regarding the possible existence of multiple independent and/or distinct inventions among the claims of record. Applicant's traversal is made to preserve applicant's rights should the examiner reassert restriction in this, or a continuing application.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that pending claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16, 17, 33 and 34 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the examiner issue an early notice of allowance. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce D. George", is written over a horizontal line.

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